

Our Reference: PBBPP.UKK.100-2/1/1(29)

Date: 27 March 2021

## PRESS RELEASE

### Penang Hill Corporation Raises Green Practice Awareness Through Biodegradable Straws

Penang Hill Corporation (PHC) takes a step forward towards a greener Penang by encouraging the use of biodegradable straws as part of its green practice awareness campaign.

Aligned with Malaysia's vision to be single-use plastics free by 2030, the campaign aims to encourage beverage vendors and restaurants at Penang Hill to refrain from single-use plastic and opt for biodegradable products such as edible straws instead.

Also present at the event was, Phee Boon Poh and PHC's general manager, Dato' Cheok Lay Leng. The campaign is also supported by Penang Green Council (PGC).

"Plastic waste has been an imminent global issue and more nations are trying to stop its vast consumption, especially single-use plastics. It is estimated that 79% of plastic waste now sits in landfills, dumps or in the environment and only about 9% has been recycled globally. Malaysians use up a whopping amount of about 31 million plastic straws every day. Over the years, the Penang state government has rolled out several initiatives to encourage people to opt for environmentally-friendly alternatives," said YB Phee, Penang State EXCO Member for Welfare, Caring Society and Environment.

Penang is the first state to introduce a No Free Plastic Bag campaign back in 2009 and a ban on polystyrene in 2012. In order to work towards the state government's Penang2030 vision where Penang is transformed into a family-focused, 'green and smart' state that inspires the nation, PHC will engage stakeholders regularly to ramp up awareness and encourage businesses and visitors to gradually find better environmentally friendly alternatives and reduce single-use plastics such as straws, plastic bottles and plastic wrappings at Penang Hill.

"At PHC, we understand and see the importance in reducing plastic waste as we experience the first-hand impact it has on the hill and its wildlife. Hence, we feel that encouraging visitors and our business partners at the hill to refrain from providing plastic straws with drinks sold and opt for edible straws is a good way forward in our work to preserve and conserve the hill," said PHC's general manager, Dato' Cheok.

"There are many biodegradable options in the market and PHC has been searching for the best option that befit our environment here at the hill. Rice straws manufactured by Nlytech Biotech Sdn Bhd for instance, are made of natural ingredients and completely edible by both humans and wildlife. These rice straws are biodegradable and will take no more than 90 days to decompose when disposed," he added.

Effective 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021, all food and beverage operators at Penang Hill will cease the usage of single-use plastic straws in support of PHC's green practice awareness campaign and consumers can opt to purchase edible straws to go with their beverages for RM0.20 per piece. This campaign is expected to significantly reduce plastic waste on Penang Hill.

“We urge all our visitors to also support this initiative and opt for environmentally friendly products while they dine at Penang Hill. While the edible straws may cost 20 cents more, the impact it has on the environment and wildlife is of greater value,” Dato’ Cheek added.

For enquiries, please contact Penang Hill Corporation at 04-828 8880 ext 211 or email [cheryl.cheah@penanghill.gov.my](mailto:cheryl.cheah@penanghill.gov.my)

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## About Penang Hill Corporation

Penang Hill Corporation was established in 2009 through an enactment passed by the Penang State Legislative Assembly. Its main focus is to manage the funicular system, maintain and develop Penang Hill as a major ecotourism destination, and its vision is to make Penang Hill the hill resort of choice in Malaysia and the region.

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